

YEAR BOOK FOR TEXAS,

1901.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE REPUBLIC AND
STATE, INSTITUTIONS, IMPORTANT EVENTS, OBITUARIES OF
DISTINGUISHED DEAD, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT,
STATISTICS, BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, AND
HISTORY NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

BY

C. W. RAINES,

STATE LIBRARIAN,

EDITOR OF "LUBBOCK'S MEMOIRS," AND AUTHOR OF A "LIFE OF SANTA ANNA"
AND A "BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TEXAS."

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

A Shower of Orange Blossoms, and the "Melody of Bells, the Bells, the Golden Bells," the Day of Adjournment.

The Second Called Session of the Twenty-seventh Legislature adjourned *sine die* to the chiming of wedding bells. The following, taken from the Journals, gives an account of the proceedings in connection with the event—the first of the kind in Texas legislative history:

"SENATE CHAMBER, September 11, 1901.

"Senators Neal and Potter introduced the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, It is currently reported that our honored brother, Senator D. McNeill Turner, is in the near future to pass from a single state to one of connubial bliss; and,

"WHEREAS, We, his brother members of the Senate, rejoice in his good fortune and wish him all success and happiness possible; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we cordially invite our said esteemed brother to honor this body by arranging for his happy union to take place within the bar of the Senate Chamber.

15--Raines.

"The resolution was read and, on motion of Senator Sebastian, was unanimously adopted by a rising vote."

"HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

"September 13, 1901.

"Mr. Poole, by unanimous consent, offered the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, It is currently reported that our accomplished, highly esteemed, and much loved Postmistress, Mrs. S. M. Franklin, is soon to be led to the hymeneal altar by the distinguished Senator, Hon. D. McNeill Turner; and,

"WHEREAS, Members of the Twenty-seventh Legislature wish her all the happiness incident to such a blissful state—with health, long life and great prosperity; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That precedent be followed (provided it meets the approval of the lady) to have the ceremony performed at home, and we hereby extend a cordial invitation to them to have the happy union consummated within the bar of this House.

"The resolution was read a second time, and Mr. Boyd moved that it be adopted by a rising vote.

"The motion prevailed, and the resolution was adopted unanimously."

"HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

"September 26, 1901.

"The following letter of thanks, presented by Mr. Callan, was read to the House:

"*Hon. R. E. Prince, Speaker, and the Members of the House of Representatives.*

"Your very kind and much appreciated invitation of recent date, wherein you tender the Hall of Representatives for my marriage ceremony, has been received. Permit me to thank you, not only collectively, but individually, for this additional testimonial of your regard and favor.

"Your invitation, extended, I feel sure, in a spirit of generous congratulation, I shall accept with a gladsome heart and a feeling of exultant gratification, and I will treasure this token of your esteem and favor throughout my future life as a sweet memento of the pleasant days we have spent together.

"To witness the ceremony, which will take place on the morning of Tuesday, October 1st, at 12 o'clock, I desire to extend a cordial invitation to each member of the House, and through the House of Representatives to the Senate, collectively and individually; to the members of the press, as well as to all officers and employes of both the House and Senate.

"Thanking you again for your kindness and thoughtful attention, I beg to gratefully subscribe myself,

"Gratefully yours,

"MRS. S. M. FRANKLIN."

The following Concurrent Senate Resolution, introduced by Senator Savage, was adopted by both houses:

"WHEREAS, It is the pleasure of the Legislature to accept an invitation to witness the ceremonies uniting in marriage the esteemed and worthy Senator, Hon. D. McNeill Turner, and his most estimable and accomplished companion, Mrs. S. M. Franklin, Postmistress of the House; and,

"WHEREAS, It is the sense of the members of each house to extend to them our best wishes and lasting regards by expressing the same in an orderly way; therefore, be it

"Resolved, by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint session of both houses be held on Tuesday at 12 o'clock for the purpose above named."

"HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

"October 1, 1901, 11:55 a. m.

"The honorable Senate * * * appeared at the bar of the House and, being duly announced, were admitted and escorted to seats provided for them. President Pro Tem. Stafford, on the part of the Senate, called the joint session to order. Mr. Schluter, who was occupying the chair at this time, called the joint session to order on the part of the House, and announced that the two houses were now in session for the purpose of witnessing the marriage ceremony of Senator D. McNeill Turner and Mrs. S. M. Franklin.

At high noon Senator Turner and Mrs. Franklin entered the hall. The groom, escorted by Lieutenant-Governor Brownning, proceeded down the right aisle, and the bride, leaning on the arm of Speaker Prince, was escorted by way of the left aisle to the place directly in front of the Speaker's stand, where they met."

Rev. I. S. Davenport, Chaplain of the Senate, performed the marriage ceremony, at the conclusion of which Mr. and Mrs. Turner retired by the center aisle and the Senators repaired to their hall.

The bride and groom were the recipients of the congratulations of the members of the legislative body and hosts of other friends.

The local press and the leading papers of the State vied with each other in describing the event and expressing good wishes for bride and groom.

The bride was born at Goliad, Texas, and is a daughter of Capt. Geo. W. Meriwether, who was an officer in Gen. Tom Green's brigade in the war between the States, Representative of the Eighty-second District (of which Goliad county formed a part) in the House of the Eighteenth Legislature, and at the time of his death at Goliad, in 1885, a leading member of the Southwest Texas bar.

She is the first lady elected an officer of the Texas Legislature; discharged the duties of the position so admirably that a number of ladies have since been given elective and appointive positions by that body; and by her grace, beauty, intelligence and refinement effected a very perceptible improvement in the rather too uncourtly manners and unpolished diction of the House.